

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

V-Tron Electronics Corporation

Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Electrified by Lean Training, V-Tron Sees Big Improvements

Client Profile:

V-Tron Electronics Corporation, founded in 1970, specializes in contract assembly and manufacturing custom cable systems, harnessing, and connector moldings. The company employs 68 people at its facility in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

Situation:

V-Tron was invited by General Dynamics to participate in their Supply Chain Project as one of their second tier suppliers. The program was developed by General Dynamics and the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist suppliers with their continuous improvement programs through Lean and other related training.

Solution:

The Supply Chain Project began with an assessment of V-Tron's facility and processes, after which MassMEP devised a plan allowing V-Tron to choose specific training that would fit their needs. Charles DaRosa, MassMEP project manager, provided all V-Tron employees with TimeWise Le101 Basic Lean training so that everyone would have knowledge of Lean terms and tools as they began implementation. During Value Stream Mapping (VSM) exercises, employee teams followed various V-Tron processes from beginning to end to identify inefficiencies. Then Kaizen events were held to address the inefficiencies by 'taking things apart and putting them back in a better way.' The teams also focused on cellular layout and flow and applied it to various areas of the facility. Many of these events were presented as train the trainer sessions so V-Tron employees could learn to conduct them independently as part of their continuous improvement and sustainment plan. For their Lean initiative, V-Tron chose to focus on the Wire Prep Department where the team implemented Point of Use Storage (POUS) to control inventory, improve ingoing and outgoing flow, and sustain improvements. By improving productivity and freeing up resources, V-Tron was successful in attracting some important new business. "In exactly one year's time," said Doug Gobin, V-Tron's president, "we have completed Value Stream Mapping and Kaizens in all manufacturing areas and are now Lean training in all support areas. As a result, we have become more competitive at a time when it is especially important. With less work available in our field, we have been able to keep what we have and even bring in new customers."

Results:

- * Projected savings of \$150,000.
- * Increased efficiency by 35 percent.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"Working with Mass MEP was very valuable in helping our company survive a period in our business where cutting costs not only helped with our bottom line but defined work place efficiency for our employees. It certainly has allowed our company a more comfortable operating cost zone at a time when our business must change due to world competition. The MEP personnel we worked with were extremely understanding and helpful. We continue to appreciate their dedication to helping us redefine our company and its objectives."

Doug Gobin, President